

Remarks

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed April 3, 2006. Claims 1-5 and 18 were rejected. Claims 6-17 and 19-22 were withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sogabe. Sogabe discloses spacers 23, 123 that form the interface between suspension arm 20 (See Figure 10) and a pivot shaft 14 (see Figure 3). The spacers 23, 123 of Sogabe are not part of the suspension arm 20. Rather, the spacers are discrete components to which the suspension arm is attached.

“The head assembly 13 is mounted on the spacer 123 by engaging the arcuate cutout 20a in one end of the suspension arm 20 with the lower section 133 of the cylindrical section 130 of the spacer 123 and by connecting the peripheral section 20b around the cutout 20a to the flange section 131.” (Sogabe, column 7, lines 15-19).

Contrary to pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, reference number 131 of Sogabe is a flange section on the spacer 123, not part of the head suspension 20. Figure 6 of Sogabe illustrates the mounting region 20b on the head suspension 20. Consequently, the tabs 142 in Figures 10 and 11 of Sogabe are part of the spacer 123, not part of the head suspension 20.

The present invention is directed to a method of forming a head suspension assembly with a mounting region with an integral boss tower. That is, the boss tower is part of the mounting region on the head suspension, not a separate component. The mounting features on the mounting region can either be portions of the boss tower or the entire boss tower.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the tabs are formed in the mounting region. Claims 1 recites “creating a plurality of tabs in the mounting region and adjacent to an aperture in the mounting region.” New claim 23 recites “creating a plurality of tabs in the mounting region, the tabs being located around an aperture in the mounting region.” Sogabe does not teach or disclose tabs formed in the mounting region. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference does not anticipate claims 1-5 and that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sogabe in view of Tanaka.

Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the tabs are formed in the mounting region. Claim 18 recites “creating a plurality of tabs in the mounting region, the tabs being located around an aperture in the mounting region.” For the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or disclose the claimed tabs on the mounting region that comprise a portion of the boss tower.

If the fees submitted herewith are incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficit or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and, in such an event, is requested to notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

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